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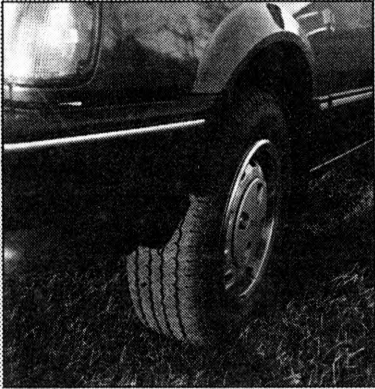
Maine Perspective

Vol. 1 No. 9

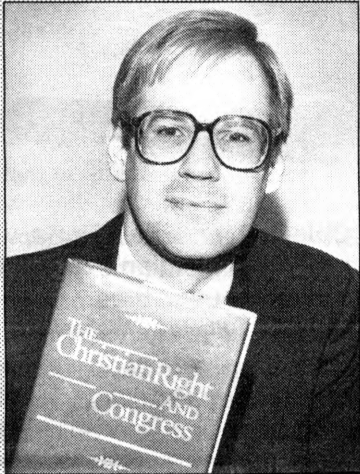
A PUBLICATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

FEBRUARY 2, 1990

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University's First Endowed Chair to be in Chemical Engineering

The University of Maine's first endowed chair, made possible by a bequest of alumnus J. Larcom Ober, will be in chemical engineering to promote excellence in chemical engineering sciences with emphasis on pulp and paper problem applications.

The Ober gift to the University of Maine Foundation, the largest single cash donation in the Foundation's history, will be used to establish a \$2 million endowed fund. According to UM President Dale Lick, the gift represents "one of the most significant single advancements (for the University) and an opportunity to take a giant step forward in a program that is already one of the best in the country.

"With this first chair, we will attract a major international scholar to advance, strengthen and support our pulp and paper, and chemical engineering programs - two programs that could not be more appropriate to the State of Maine," said Lick. "A significant new dimension has been added."

The J. Larcom Ober Chair in Chemical Engineering will provide a faculty salary at the University of Maine, monies for travel and equip-

ment, academic and research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, and motivation for other UM researchers in the field.

The appointment of a significant research leader in the pulp and paper-related industry will further enhance UM as a national leader in the field with the potential for bringing in more than \$1 million in research dollars annually and attracting graduate students to be part of the program.

According to Chancellor Robert

Woodbury, the announcement of the first academic chair at UM represents "the coming together of several strands" - not only Ober's generosity but also his "early devotion to improving pulp and paper expertise at the University, the development of a great Maine natural resource industry, the growing stature of the University itself, the spirit that animates the volunteers of the (University of Maine) Foundation, and a bright tomorrow for future Maine

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Cooperative Extension Receives Leadership Education Grant

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension is the recipient of an \$866,714 leadership education grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich.

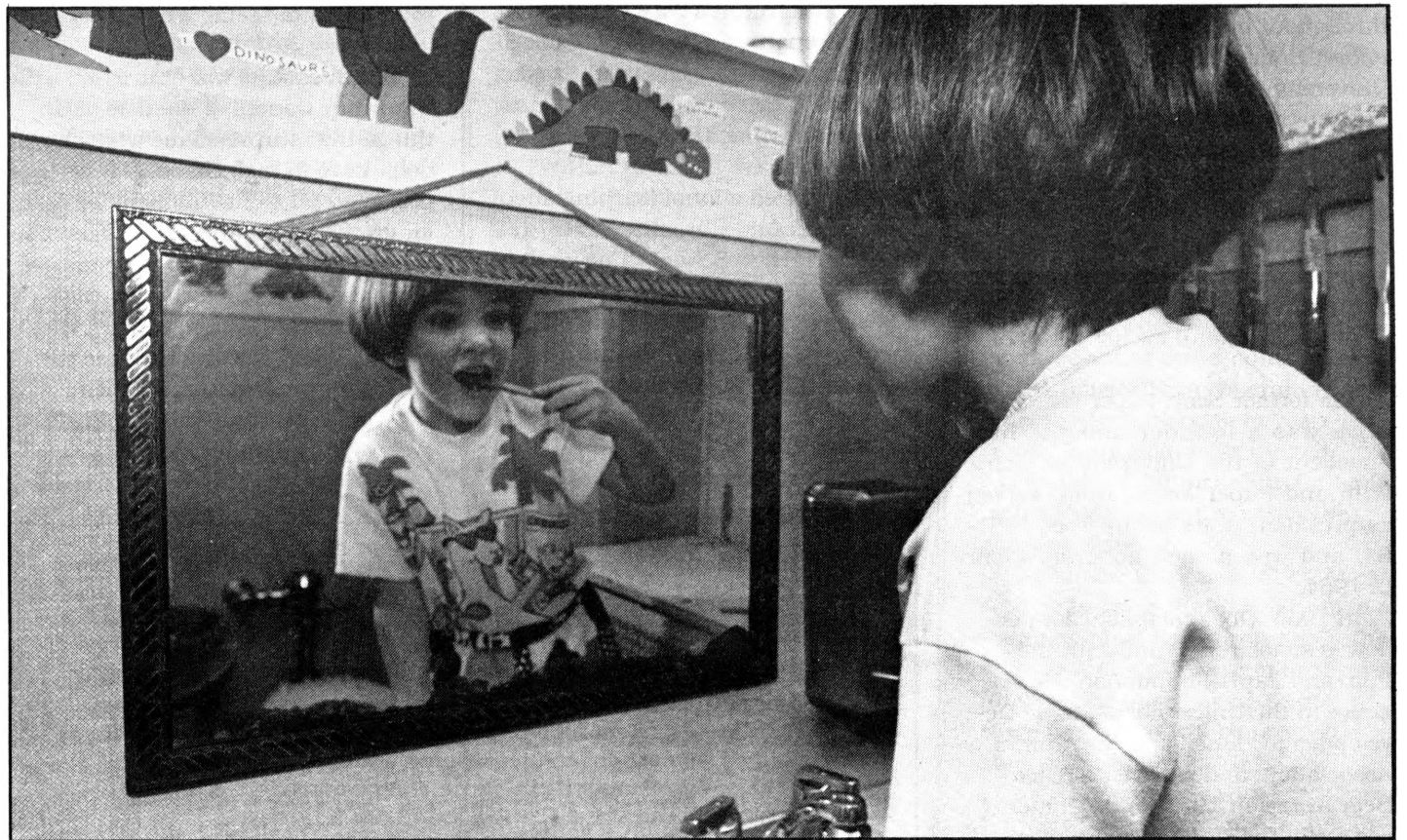
The grant, the largest ever awarded to the UM Cooperative Extension by a private foundation, will fund a three-year program of leadership activities for people in selected small Maine communities, according to

Jim Killacky, project director.

The objective of the program is to provide effective leadership training for emerging community leaders to enable them and their communities to realistically respond to present and future needs.

"A need for leadership training can be seen in the incredible demands being placed on small

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February is National Children's Dental Health Month and 4-year-old Pearl Ryder is prepared. Pearl, the daughter of Pat Ryder, is enrolled in the University's Children's Center Preschool Program where brushing after meals is encouraged. The University of Maine Dental Health Programs will hold an Open House and Fair from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Feb. 8, Lincoln Hall, Bangor Campus, in conjunction with the national observance. Last year's first Dental Health Open House for 2- to 12-year-olds was attended by almost 200 youngsters. It is designed to increase public awareness of dental health. In addition, group tours of the University's dental health facilities will be held throughout the month. For more information, call 581-6051.

Photo by John Baer

In Search of Recycling Alternatives for Used Tires

High School Students Tap UM Engineering Expertise

Dioxins, the waste management crisis and recycling were on the minds of 20 high school students from Maine who came to the University of Maine earlier this month in search of answers to an age-old problem - how to turn used automobile tires into a useful resource.

In a six-day project spread over the academic year, the gifted and talented students participated in regional programming focusing on mathematics and science. The goal was to provide enrichment options for the students - going beyond their classroom experiences.

It was an opportunity to take advantage of the expertise and equipment resources available at the University of Maine.

"The idea came from Roger Fuller (an Oak Hill English teacher and coordinator of Project Discovery, a program for gifted and talented students)," said Doris Bonneau, director of gifted education and professional development at Auburn Public School. "So many kids need enrichment options that are not available in local schools, and the costs for providing options are prohibitive for small systems. The answer was to combine efforts and develop regional programs."

Two years ago, a regional enrichment program for writing was established between the high schools and Bates College. The next step was to supplement the math/science high school curriculum with an enrichment program with real-life applications. Sophomores, juniors and seniors from four high schools were selected to take part in the math/science program that included experiments for recycling used auto tires.

And, at the suggestion of one of the teachers, Tom Ustach of Oak Hill High School, University of Maine was called in to assist. Ustach graduated from UM in 1980 with a degree in forest engineering and, two years later, with a teaching certificate. He said he remembered his engineering education at the University and knew similar experiences would be beneficial to the high school students.

With the help of Norm Smith, dean of the College of Engineering and Technology, the students heard lectures and took field trips in an effort to determine the scope of the waste crisis in used tires. They also set to work constructing experimental burners for used auto tires and planned other experiments to find recycling alternatives for used tires.

The students came to the University of Maine for two days of experiments and lectures led by Smith, Dana Humphrey, Chet Rock, both of Civil Engineering, and David Kraske, Chemical Engineering. The students were in for some first-time experiences.

"It involved a lot of learning about this topic," said Christine Morin, 16, of Auburn High School. "I never did research before and this was a different experience. In doing the experiments, we get to use the stuff we learn in school like chemistry - I've taken it, but never used it outside the classroom."

For Curt Hunnewell, 15, of Ed-



Leavitt Area High School students Dennis Obie, left, and Wes Sirois, with the assistance of Dean Norm Smith, place rubber chips in an experimental burner in the search for recycling alternatives for used tires.

Photo by Michael York

ward Little, the program was a chance to meet new people and learn more about engineering. "It's a lot more fun than school," he said.

"There are more resources here (at the University of Maine) and more experts to talk to," said Kirk Hill, 17, of Auburn High School. "It's a different opportunity, working in this surrounding and seeing what college is like."

Smith said he was "intrigued with what they wanted to do. One of the things that surprised me what they don't have in high schools for science projects - a lot of equipment we take for granted here, things like thermocouples to measure the temperature of melted or burning rubber. High school labs are limited in what they can do. When the students see the different gear it fascinates them.

"This is our first project like this and we're hoping for more."

By using the University of Maine

as a key resource, the expertise and facilities made it possible for the students to see "engineering in action," said Bonneau. "We hope the students have a better understanding of the engineering aspect of science. We stress physical and life sciences in high school, but blending math and science in engineering is something we don't do enough of. In addition, the students have an opportunity to interact with their peers outside high school, and having been exposed to University-level personnel will be beneficial to them."

The students will return to the University in March for more testing of their experimental burners. Their test results - including analysis of exhaust gas and residue - are expected to be presented in a final report to parents and peers in May.

The final reports should prove exciting, said Smith. He predicts that they will probably note that rubber tire chips are profitable to make and turn out to be good fuel if burned cleanly. The students also are finding out that generally what the public believes about automobile tire and other recycling is based on misconceptions and, with the correct information, better decisions about solid waste management could be made.

Ober Chair

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chemical engineers."

Ober, a prominent UM alumnus, had strong ties to the University of Maine and its Chemical Engineering Department.

"J. Larcom Ober provided volunteer leadership to the University, the Pulp and Paper Foundation, and the University of Maine Foundation throughout his life," according to Robert Holmes, vice president for University Development. "He was dedicated to his career field of chemical engineering and the pulp and paper program. His special gift demonstrates the magnitude to which a donor can ensure excellence for a particular area of education at our institution. Our students and faculty are grateful for his generosity."

The former Scott Paper Co., executive was a founder and the first president of the University of Maine Pulp and Paper Foundation, served as president of its board from 1961-64, and was named honorary chair in 1964.

In 1966, Ober established an endowed scholarship fund with the Pulp and Paper Foundation. He was active in the University of Maine Development Council and the Alumni Association, and received a Black Bear Award in 1951 for outstanding service to the University. He received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University of Maine in 1953.

A Beverly, Mass., native, Ober received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from UM in 1913. He was an engineer and executive of Stone and Webster Co., of Boston for 19 years before joining Scott Paper Co., in 1933. Ober retired from Scott Paper in 1955 as vice president and director.

He died in an auto accident in 1970 at the age of 79.

Clarification: A story in the Jan. 19 issue of Maine Perspective noted that new University of Maine entrance signs were being funded by monies from the University of Maine System's Beautification Fund. The story went on to note that, in the past three years, monies from the fund have been used to upgrade a classroom and furniture, and install a flagpole in front of Fogler Library. In fact, Beautification Fund monies paid for not just one classroom but the upgrading of several dozen classrooms, including the repair and replacement of furniture within those classrooms.

Editor's Note: A computer glitch during production of the last issue of Maine Perspective caused a number of stories to be cut short by four lines. The problem has now been corrected and is not expected to recur. Full copies of the stories are available on request. We thank those readers who read the stories, missed the last lines, and called or wrote to inquire.

Maine Perspective

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Book Examines the Christian Right's Influence on Congress

In the first term of the Reagan Administration, two Constitutional amendments - abortion and school prayer - were voted on in the United States Senate, brought there by a social movement that was virtually non-existent until 1979.

Abortion was not prohibited and school prayer was not allowed, as each failed to receive the necessary two-thirds vote to pass a Constitutional amendment. But the high number of yea votes that were cast in the Senate (50-50 and 56-44 respectively) are indicative of the activism and influence of one of the most surprising groups to enter American politics in recent decades - the Christian Right.

"I look at the votes on abortion and school prayer not so much as losses but as impressive accomplishments for a movement formed only several years prior. After all, the Christian Right was able to get Constitutional amendments considered on the floor within a relatively short period of time," said Matthew Moen, University of Maine assistant professor of political science. "The votes obtained were particularly impressive when one recalls that a Constitutional amendment on abortion had never been voted on since the 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision (allowing abortion), and an amendment on prayer had not been voted on since 1966. That's agenda setting - shaping the Congressional agenda and dialogue."

According to Moen, author of the newly released book "The Christian Right and Congress," strong lobbying of the Congress by liberal religious groups has been occurring for years. But the arrival of the Christian Right on Capitol Hill brought lobbying from religious conservatives. The result has been a wealth of religious lobbying on such issues

as abortion, school prayer, aid to the Contras, and support for the MX missile.

"Religious conservatives mostly withdrew from politics after the Scopes 'monkey trial' in 1925," said Moen, "but before that, were heavily involved in anti-slavery and Prohibition campaigns." It took events in the Carter Administration - including IRS crackdowns on private religious schools perceived to be racially discriminatory and FCC questioning of the content of television evangelists' programs - to spur into action the conservative Christian community that, up to that time, was labeled the "sleeping giant" of American politics. The Christian Right's rapid rise was surprising, since it tends to be composed of citizens who "generally lack the socioeconomic attributes (for example, education and wealth) conducive to high levels of political participation and to pressure-group membership."

Initially, the Christian Right focused on registering voters, especially for Ronald Reagan's first Presidential bid. A signal of its gathering strength came in April 1980 with the two-day "Washington for Jesus" rally, which was attended by 200,000 people. A virtual "who's who" of the Christian Right led the rally, which included prayer, fasting and singing regarding the direction of America. It was the second largest event on the Mall in Washington, D.C., after Martin Luther King Jr.'s rally in the 1960s. Also in 1980, Reagan addressed 15,000 Christian Right leaders and activists at the National Affairs Briefing, during which he "clearly cast his lot with them," said Moen.

However, Reagan did not turn full attention to the Christian Right's agenda during his first two years in office, Moen said. Instead, he fo-

cused on his budget and rearmament goals. By 1983, with reelection looming and other issues disposed of, Reagan was ready to turn his attention to lobbying the Congress on behalf of the Christian Right.

It was during that period (1983-84) that Moen, then a Congressional Fellow to Rep. Phil Sharp of Indiana, researched the Christian Right. He interviewed several dozen people including members of Congress, Congressional staffers, religious lobbyists, the White House liaison to religious conservatives, and the legislative directors of such groups as Moral Majority and Christian Voice. He was interested in speaking with people involved with the Christian Right and promoting its agenda, as well as Congressional staffers on committees who were familiar with the legislative interactions.

"I was after the impact of the Christian Right on Congress - the element of activism no one else had looked at," said Moen. "Scholars have studied the Christian Right's electoral impact, its success in registering voters, the rise of the movement itself, and the role of television evangelists, but no one had examined its influence vis-a-vis Congress."

"What struck me about the Christian Right was its ability in a short period of time to put groups in place, lobby and get results," said Moen. "The Christian Right formed and gained access to the nation's political agenda, turned Congressional attention to its concerns, and fought for specific legislation. It was adept at building a social movement - good at agitation and whipping people up. It did well despite the fact that it often presented its cases ineffectively and inefficiently on the Hill."

"Within Reagan's first term, the Christian Right reached the zenith of its efforts on the Hill. In the second

Reagan term, its fortunes there declined, though that was due in part to its earlier successes."

According to Moen, in the 98th Congress (1983-84), the Christian Right succeeded in: preventing federally funded legal services from accepting gay rights cases; obtaining a provision for permitting silent prayer in schools; extending the Hyde amendments prohibiting taxpayer funding for abortions; getting passage of "equal access" legislation permitting student religious groups to meet in public schools during non-curriculum hours - a compromise for not getting a Constitutional amendment allowing prayer in schools.

Incidents involving prominent television evangelists caused a "period of retrenchment" for the Christian Right after that time, especially the allegations of misconduct surrounding Jim Bakker of the PTL Club. Yet the infrastructure of the Christian Right remained strong enough to boost Pat Robertson into a surprisingly strong contender in the last Presidential election. Before his campaign ended, "Robertson defeated Republican rivals in a half-dozen primaries and caucuses."

Today there is little Christian Right activism on Capitol Hill, and little presence within the Bush Administration. But the quiet should not be interpreted as either apathy or decline, said Moen. "The Christian Right is now concentrating on state and local venues," he said. "It's activism at the grassroots level is rebuilding the movement from the ground up. It will resurface nationally with new impetus."

The resurfacing is to be expected since the "injection of religious precepts in American politics is the norm in American history," Moen said. "I don't think we're heading back down the road to Prohibition, halting the use of contraceptives or stopping abortion. Americans are too diverse and multi-cultural. But I expect religiosity in general to be interjected even more so in years to come - more from both the religious left and the right including Catholic bishops coming out more on the abortion issue."

As for the Christian Right, Moen said he believes that it will remain a viable political force throughout the '90s, "but one will have to be a careful observer to see its activism, since much of it will be focused at state and local levels. It has changed its strategy somewhat, preferring to quietly organize and infiltrate the Republican Party in the grassroots, rather than seek media attention on national issues as it did in the early '80s."

When will it return to Capitol Hill to lobby in force? According to Moen, its earliest opportunity is in 1992, when the Democrats must defend two-thirds of the Senate seats up for reelection. "In 1992, the Christian Right will have its big chance to move its concerns front and center on the Congressional agenda," said Moen.

Grant to Provide Training for Community Leaders

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communities," said Killacky, UM Cooperative Extension community development specialist. Whether the problem involves dealing with major legislative and public policy matters or improving community teamwork and communication, people need the skills to make informed decisions and generate appropriate responses at the local level, he said.

The project, developed by the UMEC and its Institute for Community Leadership and Development, will identify three regions of the state where the leadership courses and workshops will take place. Regions will be identified in conjunction with the county Extension offices and will be announced at the end of a competitive application process currently under way.

When the regions are identified, a coordinator for each will be selected and active recruitment of the first training classes will begin. The coordinators will identify the eligible communities and invite applications from those places to join the program.

Participants will be selected on the bases of need, interest in leadership education, and support within the community.

Training activities will be held in each of the regions and will be designed in response to local needs.

"One of our major goals is to tailor the training activities to genuine local needs, so that participants can be very involved right from the beginning," said Killacky. Noting that many leadership and other programs are run at some central, far-away place, he stressed that the Cooperative Extension project will be as local as possible.

The Kellogg Foundation will support the leadership effort for a three-year period, and the University will provide matching contributions in salaries, space and equipment.

Community leadership is vital if the small, rural areas of Maine are to survive the changes of the next decade, according to University of Maine President Dale Lick. "The project speaks directly to that need,

and to an emphasis for the University of Maine," he said.

Judith Bailey, assistant vice president for Cooperative Extension, said she sees the project as epitomizing the commitment of Extension to the people of Maine at the local level. "It will add another significant chapter to the long Extension tradition of broad and effective interagency cooperation as we will be working with a large number of groups and organizations to make this a model leadership program," she said.

Several major Cooperative Extension leadership efforts are already in operation. The Institute for Community Leadership and Development, established approximately two years ago, coordinates leadership activities within the Extension, serves as a clearinghouse on leadership information in the state, and creates programs in response to need.

Two of the current programs, Family Community Leadership and Volunteers for the Future, are funded by the Kellogg Foundation.

"And if I dream about you, tomorrow will be

JULY 1944. Hitler's armies were being pushed out of Russia, and the liberation of Europe was under way. England remained steadfast, and the American forces, under F.D.R. and Eisenhower, had begun to shift the military balance. Allied troops had landed in Normandy only a few weeks earlier.

Charles Taylor, a young replacement lieutenant in the 39th Infantry Regiment, writing to his war bride, told her of the sights, sounds and feelings he was experiencing during his first weeks of combat in France.

29 July 1944

Today I am really tired but perhaps I'll get some rest. Darling, I am sorry that I had to let a few days slip by without getting a letter off to you, but at times there is no time or place to write and when there is time, there is nothing to write on. I'll try to do better for awhile, maybe I can carry a few V-Mail blanks with me. War or no war, there is really no excuse for me to let so many days get by without sending at least a note, is there? ...

Darling, our infantry regiment has a saying and letters — AAA-O — "anything, anywhere, anytime, bar nothing." It used to be a brand used on cattle on our Regimental Commander's ranch, but it sure holds good for our regiment. The whole regiment is proud of their saying and I am proud of the whole damn regiment 'cause I feel sure there is none better in the whole U.S. Army.

... The country here is really pretty and I guess every Frenchman that had a house had also a couple of cider barrels in his cider room. All of them raised a lot of rabbits too, for as I sit here there are four or five rabbits within a few yards of me. Most of the Frenchmen had cattle too, for there are cows all over the place. I just stopped and took a tent rope and roped one of those rabbits. They look like they would be good to eat. May try one some of these days. A few of the boys are cooking some fried chicken a few tents down from me, sure smells good too. I'd sure like some chicken that Mother used to cook. My, I'll bet it would taste good ...

Barbara Wooddall Taylor, when writing to Charles in what had become a nightly ritual, provided him with much information about her life on the home front.

July 8, 1944

... This time last year I was getting myself adjusted to being at home again and buying things for the baby etc. Now she's a little girl - and oh, so very much has happened in this past year, hasn't it, darling?

Tonight a crowd of girls went up to Martha Bledsoe's for awhile and made ice cream (It's after eleven now, but I felt as if I must talk to you a little - gee, I love you.) Louise, Emily, Jean and I went, and we enjoyed it. Just sat there "swapping" stories as to what we've done in the past year ...

It's been swell talking to you tonight. I have your picture right here and it makes me feel good and bad at the same time to look at it. I love you so much ...

These letters are just two of the more than 2,000 letters that Charles and Barbara Taylor wrote to each other during World War II. They are about falling in love, courtship by mail, marriage, traveling about the United States from one Army camp to the next, having a baby, separation, combat, the home front, and finally - reunion. They detail the love of two young people for each other, the horror and frustration of war, a coming of age, a passion for life, a belief in all that America symbolized. They portray the impact of the Second World War on ordinary people. It is a story recounted in letters - V-Mails, air mails, telegrams - a small part of the billions of pieces of mail which were written during the war years.

Working with the letter writers, historians David Smith of the University of Maine and Judy Barrett Litoff of Bryant College have compiled the Taylor letters into a book, "Miss You: The World War II Letters of Barbara Wooddall Taylor and Charles E. Taylor." This pathbreaking book is to be published in spring 1990 by the University of Georgia Press. "Miss You" is the culmination of six years of research by Smith and Litoff, who first met as professor and graduate student at the University of Maine nearly 20 years ago. But it is far from the final chapter.

While researching "Miss You," the two historians discovered that the letters written by men in combat had often been carefully preserved by loved ones at home, donated to military libraries and archives, or even made into books. But, whenever they asked about letters written by women, the responses which they most often heard were, "There aren't any letters from women. They were all destroyed. The men in

combat were under orders not to keep personal materials." Yet the historian in each of them could not quite believe that to be true.

Barbara Taylor's letters had chronicled a grand story of romance, making do, learning to cope with life, being a single parent, and dealing with sorrow, pain, loneliness - even despair. Above all else, as she frequently said when writing to her husband, they told of "just growing up." Litoff and Smith were so intrigued by these letters that they decided to undertake a major effort to locate other letters written by women. In spring 1988, the two scholars sent a brief letter of inquiry to 1,400 daily newspapers, and over 200 magazines and periodicals across the U.S. requesting information about letters written by women during World War II. This inquiry has resulted in the accumulation of more than 25,000 letters. They have heard from all 50 states and Canada.

"We are especially excited about these letters," said Litoff. "They go far beyond the experiences of women in the workforce. They tell of the camaraderie of war wives as they sustained each other during the turbulent war years. They deal with the ultimate question of the impact of World War II on women, the improvement of women's lives. These letters suggest that this was a time in which women developed a new sense of empowerment which has been carried to the present. As a result, our work may change how historians view the 1950s - especially the concept of 'the feminine mystique.' We are convinced that these letters are as important to the understanding of history as any stories of presidents and generals."

The letter writers range in age from 6 to 96. Mothers, sweethearts, sisters, wives, aunts, school teachers, "the girl next door," and young women in war plants all wrote letters which Smith and Litoff have collected. Some letters were written on a dare from a buddy's sister (and many of these led to weddings). Others came from nurses, Red Cross workers, women in the service, and just plain friends. They include every imaginable topic - even a "Dear John" or two.

Smith and Litoff have also located newsletters written by church, school and community groups to men and women in uniform. They have located letters written to POWs and Army chaplains requesting information about loved ones missing-in-action, poignant "good-bye" letters, original poems and artwork, memorial letters and, of course, beautiful love letters.

"The people writing these letters never thought others would read them," Litoff said. "But they are wonderfully compelling. Increasingly it has become clear to us that they are compelling because they were not originally written for everyone to read. They were directed to a small audience, usually a single



The Friday before Pearl Harbor, Charles and Barbara Taylor are together in an Atlanta nightclub.



Charles Taylor in the summer of 1943 at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.



Barbara Taylor and her daughter, August 1943.



It was not unusual for women in the service. In this case, it was to read and write by c

a lovely day."

reader. They were hurriedly written, but with an intensity that makes them read like great literature."

According to Smith, their collection "includes powerful letters from stepmothers who needed to tell their stepsons how much they loved them as the young men were about to go into combat. There are letters written during 'lunch' breaks on the midnight shift; from cousins writing in odd moments snatched in a school study hall; and, from school teachers remembering those special days in the junior play or the class picnic. We even have letters written by Japanese-American women in internment camps."

Many letters speak of F.D.R. and what his death might mean. The letter writers worried about the Battle of the Bulge and the incredible squalor reported about Japanese camps where the survivors of Bataan and Corregidor were imprisoned; rebel at stories of Parisian night life; and discuss the horrors of the concentration camps. They talk about the end of the war and that the bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki would mean life for those who might have died otherwise, as well as their fear of the ultimate meaning of the new weapon; of how the G.I. Bill would offer a different future; and above all, of when the men would come home and the couples could plan their houses, buy their furniture, raise their families, live normal lives. As Smith said, "These letters are the juice of history."

Although Litoff and Smith emphasized that all of the letters which they have received are "very special," they did concede that the following letter is one of their favorites. It was written by Sigrid Jensen shortly after her husband, Karl, left for combat.

June 16, 1943

My Darling:

You've only been gone a few hours and already the house is waiting for you. I came back from driving you out to the avenue and began mentally putting away our life together to make room for the new one here alone. The main difficulty was that there is too much of you here. Your magazines, your books, your ash receiver, your papers still where you dropped them last night, your clothes spilling out of your closet, and even your pajamas flung on the bed. But it wasn't till I picked up the shirt you'd worn last night that the feel of you was unbearable. Then this morning's dashing, and packing and tearing around and the ride out to the avenue and the 15 minutes I sat there in the car after your trolley car had disappeared in the distance all came back again - and snatches of our life together, some funny, some sad, some gay, some mad, were all there, between us forever and not to be wiped out. I stood there holding the shirt thinking it

must go to the laundry. But I couldn't put it in the hamper. I couldn't even lay it down.

And that's what it was like. Except that no words can get down to the awful unreality and finalness of it, the knowledge in one's mind, still unaccepted by the senses. That you, the best-natured and most tolerant person in the world should have to learn to hate and kill is just as incredible to me as the fact that the peculiar oneness of us as a family should be broken ...

I can't think any longer now. I'm groggy a bit - the weather's terrifically hot, and I hope, sleepy-making. It's not yet 10:15, but I'm going to bed - I'll pretend we're together, and that every once in a while I must nudge you to make you move over, or stop snoring! And if I dream about you, tomorrow will be a lovely day.

I love you,
Sigrid

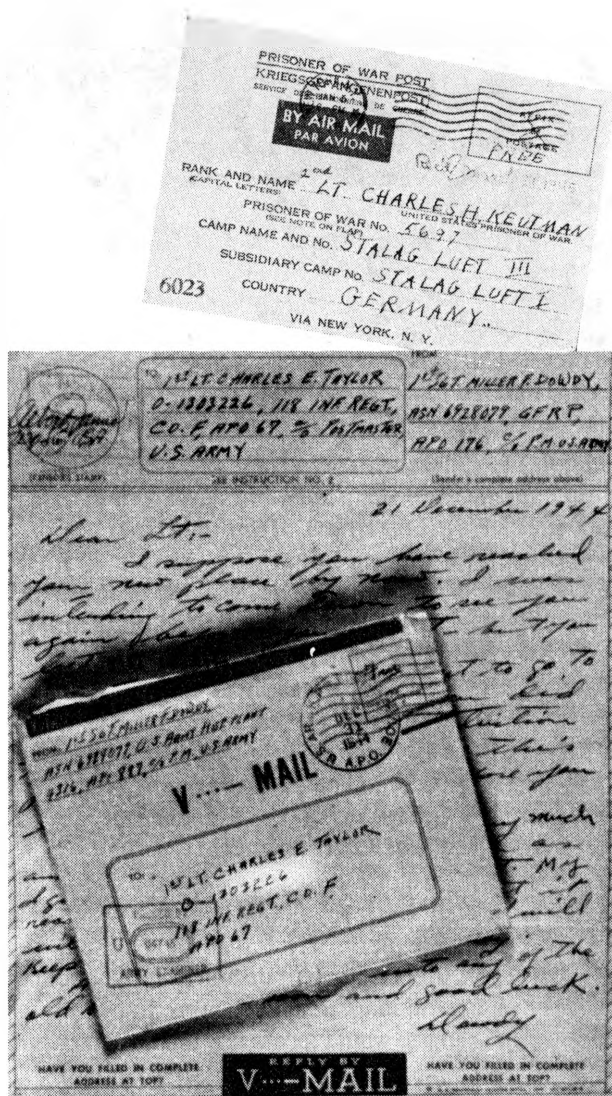
But just as this powerful letter from Jensen evokes the pain of separation, other letters in the collection express the great joy and relief that women experienced when the news arrived that a loved one was finally coming home. One such letter was written by Bethel Uphagrove Herdman of Casper, Wyo. to her fiancé, Allan, who had served for two and a half years with the army in Iran.

April 12, 1945

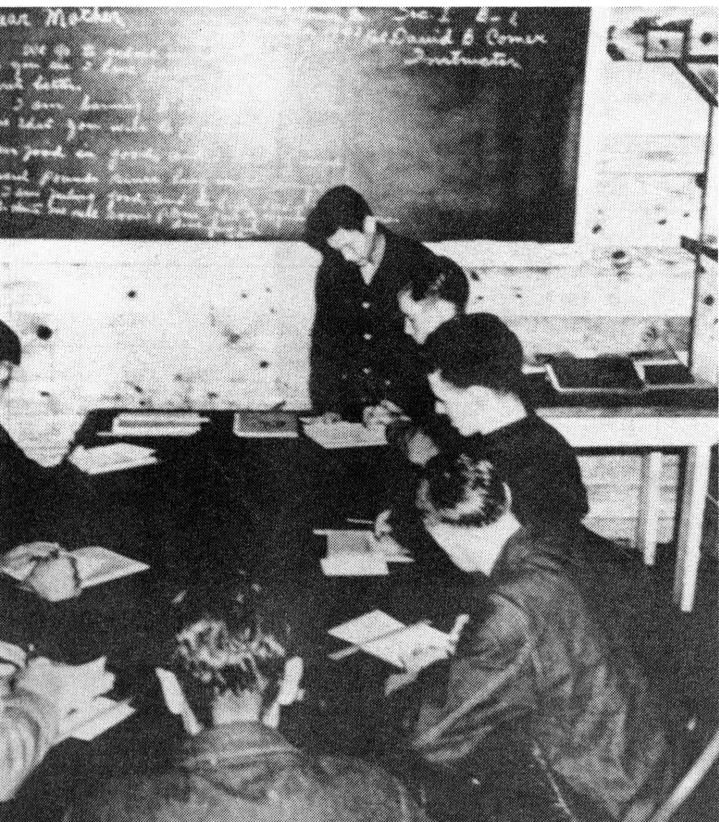
My Dearest, Darling Allan:

... As is my custom, I stopped at the post office to check my box for mail. Awaiting my eager fingers was that familiar airmail envelope bearing your APO number. Opening it my eyes immediately fell on those three beautiful words, "I'm Coming Home!" Wow! The glow I felt could light up a whole city block! Yes we are both walking on air,

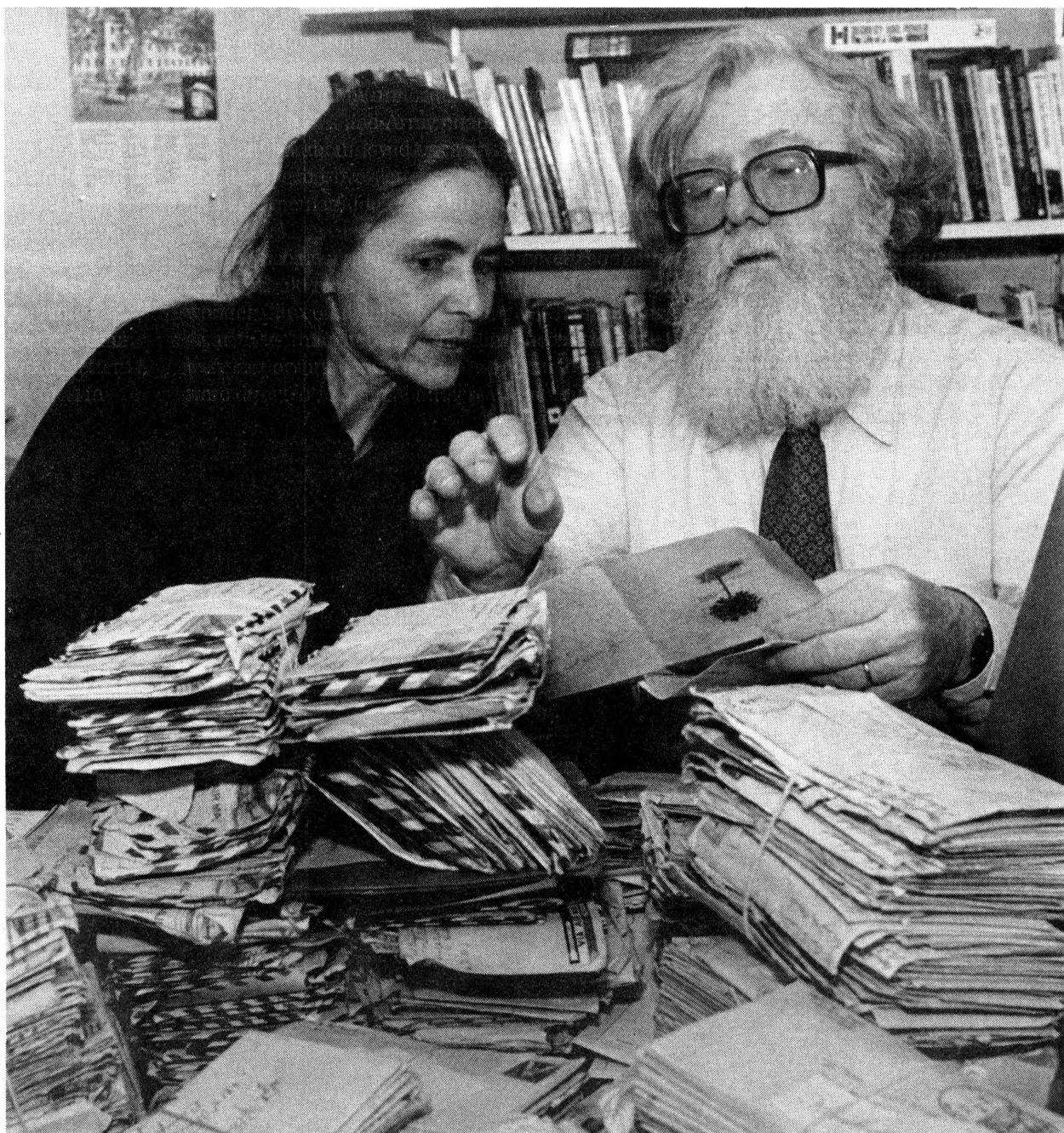
continued on page 6



There is a story behind virtually every envelope or letter collected by the two historians. The top envelope is written to a prisoner of war - an Air Force lieutenant stationed in Italy whose plane was shot down in September 1944. The man was listed as missing in action for six weeks before his mother was notified that he was in a German prison camp. The second letter and envelope above were sent by Charles Taylor to another lieutenant inquiring about the fate of a companion.



for enlisted personnel to be taught to read and write while this photo, taken in 1944-45, service personnel are learning by composing letters home to their mothers.



Historians Judy Barrett Litoff of Bryant College and David Smith of the University of Maine have accumulated more than 25,000 World War II vintage letters from people in all 50 states and Canada.

continued from page 5

Forever,
Beth

"We also want Americans to know about the marvelous individual and group letter-writing efforts we have discovered. In fact, we have a book planned about an exceptionally moving series of such letters. They were written by Mrs. Keith Frazier Somerville, in the form of a bi-monthly column, "Dear Boys," which appeared in a local newspaper, published in the small Mississippi Delta town of Cleveland."

January 15, 1943

I have been reading for weeks, with such interest, a delightful continued letter, which my friend, Florence Sillers Ogden, has been writing in the Rosedale paper, to the boys in service from the other side of Bolivar County. Through it I have gleaned a knowledge of the whereabouts of many of the boys we used to see at Delta dances, basketball tournaments, football games and the like. We stay-at-homes are all so interested in knowing about you! When I mentioned to the editor that I'd been writing personal letters to some of you, he said, "Why not write a letter now

Sincerely,
Mrs. Keith Frazier Somerville

In an effort to keep the nearly 600 persons who have already expressed an interest in the project up to date, the two historians send out a newsletter every few months on stationery printed in the format used for V-Mail letters during the Second World War.



Some V-Mail contained original artwork like this drawn by Doris Winiker of Brooklyn, N.Y.

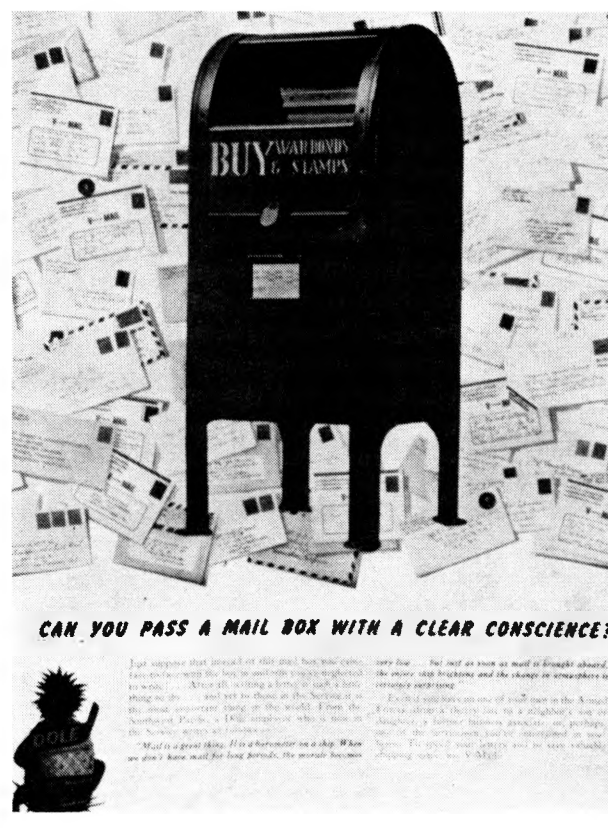
"In one sense, World War II was the last time the world worked the way people thought it should," according to Smith and Litoff.



This is a photo of the only copy of the hand-drawn mimeographed newspaper, *Pacific Leatherneck*.



V-Mail sent from a sailor in 1943.



In a typical magazine advertisement of the day, Dole urges support of the War through letter-writing.

All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise specified. Any speaker not otherwise identified is a member of the University of Maine faculty, staff or student body. For ticket information on athletic events, call xBEAR. Send notices of upcoming campus events at least two weeks in advance to: *Maine Perspective Calendar, Public Affairs. Calendar of events listings MUST be typewritten following the formula:*

Title of Event, Date, Place, Admission, Phone Number for More Information.

SEND CALENDAR ITEMS BY FEB. 7 FOR ALL CAMPUS EVENTS OCCURRING FEB 17-MARCH 2
For more information, call x3745.

SATURDAY, Feb. 3

Women's Basketball with Northeastern, 2 p.m. Adm.

"My Stepmother is an Alien," video, 3 p.m., Commuter Lounge, Union. x1731.

"Doctor Strangelove or: How I Learned To Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb," Union Board film, 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m., Hauck Aud. Adm. x1736.

"Paul Strowe," band, part of Saturday Sizzlers Comedy and Variety Shows, 9 p.m., Bear's Den, Union. x1736.

SUNDAY, Feb. 4

Newman Center Hours: 9:30 a.m., Newman Center; 11:15 a.m., Bangor Lounges, Union; 6:15 p.m., Newman.

Episcopal Eucharist, 4 p.m., Drummond Chapel, Union.

MONDAY, Feb. 5

A.A. Meeting, noon, Ham Room, Memorial Union.

Foreign Language Table, French, noon, Yellow Dining Room, Hilltop. x2073.

Monday Jazz, noon, N. Bangor Lounge, Union. x1731.

"Divorce: Protecting Children and Parents From Damaging Pitfalls," by Robert Peddicord, Families in Transition Educational Series, 3:15 p.m., Sutton Lounge, Union. x4014.

Anthropology Club, 7 p.m., FFA Room, Union. x7723.

TUESDAY, Feb. 6

"Moths and Microbes. Ecology of a Gypsy Moth Pathogen," by Kathleen Murray, UMass., 11 a.m., 311 Deering. x2957.

Foreign Language Table, Russian, noon, Yellow Dining Room, Hilltop. x2073.

"Cheech & Chong's Nice Dreams," video, noon, Sutton Lounge, Union. x1731.

"Acid Precipitation and the Aquatic Ecosystem," by Terry Haines, Wildlife Seminar Series, noon, 204 Nutting Hall. x2862.

"Changing Sexual Mores and Child Sexual Abuse," by William O'Donohue, WIC Lunch Series, 12:15 p.m., Bangor Lounge, Union.x1228.

Maine Peace Action Committee Meeting, 4 p.m., Maples.

Sustainable Agriculture Interest Group Meeting, 5 p.m., 207 Deering. x2935.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 7

Foreign Language Table, German, noon, Yellow Dining Room, Hilltop. x2073.

"Dangerous Liaisons," video, noon, Sutton Lounge, Memorial Union. x1731.

Department of Social Work Open House, 1 p.m., Annex C. x2384.

Peace Studies Peace Club, 5 p.m., Stodder Private Dining Room. x2609.

Protestant Worship, 6 p.m., Drummond Chapel, Union.

Circle K Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Sutton Lounge, Union.

"The First Storytellers," a Foreign Language Department Classics film (English), 6:30 p.m., 207 Little. x2073.

UM Archaeological Society, 7 p.m., Ham Rm.,Union. x1900.

Men's Basketball with New Hampshire, 7:30 p.m.. Adm.

THURSDAY, Feb. 8

Al-Anon Meeting, 11 a.m., Ham/Old Town Rm.,Union.

Single Parent Support Group, 11 a.m., Ham Room., Union. x1820.

Foreign Language Table, Spanish, noon, Yellow Dining Room, Hilltop. x2073.

"Privatization: Capitalism's Latest Frontier," by Melvin Burke, Socialist and Marxist Luncheon Series, 12:20 p.m., Sutton Lounge, Union. x3860.

"The Unholy," video, 1:30 p.m., Sutton Lounge, Memorial Union. x1731.

Dental Health Open House, 3 p.m., Lincoln Hall, Bangor.

"Freud and Art," an Honors 202 Lecture by Ronald Bernier, 3:10 p.m., 100 Neville Hall. x3264.

Protestant Worship, 4 p.m., Drummond Chapel, Union.

Wilde Stein Club, 6:30 p.m., Sutton Lounge, Union.

"Do the Right Thing," Peace and Justice Film Festival, 7 p.m., 101 Neville Hall.

"Cheech & Chong's Nice Dreams," video, 7 p.m., Commuter Lounge, Union. x1731.

FRIDAY, Feb. 9

Moslem Prayer, noon, Drummond Chapel, Union.

Overeaters Anonymous, noon, Old Town Room., Union.

"Physiology and Biochemistry of Algalinvertebrate Symbioses: Reef-Building Corals," by Zvy Dubinsky, Bar Ilan University, Zoology Seminar, 3 p.m., 102 Murray. x2541.

"Impact of Atmospheric Trace Gases on Climate Change Issues," by Dagmar Cronn, 3:10 p.m., 140 Bennett. x1019.

International Coffee Hour, 4:30 p.m., Bangor Lounges, Union. x1825.

Ice Hockey with New Hampshire, 7 p.m. Admission.

"Dangerous Liaisons," video, 7 p.m., Commuter Lounge, Memorial Union. x1731.

"La Boheme," by N.Y. City Opera National Co., 8 p.m., Maine Center for the Arts. Admission. x1755.

SATURDAY, Feb. 10

Women's Basketball with Vermont, 2 p.m. Admission.

"2001: A Space Odyssey," a Union Board film, 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m., Hauck Auditorium, Union. Admission. x1736.

Ice Hockey with New Hampshire, 7 p.m. Admission.

"The Winders," band, part of Saturday Sizzlers, 9 p.m., Bear's Den, Union. x1736.

SUNDAY, Feb. 11

Newman Center Hours: 9:30 a.m., Newman Center; 11:15 a.m., Bangor Lounges, Union; 6:15 p.m., Newman.

"The Unholy," video, 3 p.m., Commuter Lounge, Union. x1731.

Episcopal Eucharist, 4 p.m., Drummond Chapel, Union.

Mel Torme and Helen Reddy in concert, 8 p.m., Maine Center for the Arts. Admis-

sion. x1755.

MONDAY, Feb. 12

A.A. Meeting, noon, Ham Room, Memorial Union.

Monday Jazz, noon, N. Bangor Lounge, Union. x1731.

Foreign Language Table, French, noon, Yellow Dining Room, Hilltop. x2073.

"Single Parents," by Dorothy Breen, Families in Transition Educational Series, 3:15 p.m., Sutton Lounge, Union. x4014.

Anthropology Club, 7 p.m., FFA Room, Union. x7723.

TUESDAY, Feb. 13

Foreign Language Table, Russian, noon, Yellow Dining Room, Hilltop. x2073.

"Wildlife and Recreation Management on Great Northern Forest Land," by Dan Cochran, forester, Great Northern Paper Co., Wildlife Seminar Series, noon, 204 Nutting. x2862.

"Fletch Lives," video, noon, Sutton Lounge, Union. x1731.

"Sexuality Education: Having a Public Discussion About Private Parts," by Sandra Caron, WIC Lunch Series, 12:15 p.m., Bangor Lounge, Union. x1228.

Maine Peace Action Committee Meeting, 4 p.m., Maples.

Sustainable Agriculture Interest Group Meeting, 5 p.m., 207 Deering. x2935.

Ice Hockey with Lowell, 7 p.m. Admission.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 14

Foreign Language Table, German, noon, Yellow Dining Room, Hilltop. x2073.

"Mississippi Burning," video, noon, Sutton Lounge, Memorial Union. x1731.

"Isolation and Characterization of an Abundant, Putative Retrotransposon in Pine," by Claie Kinlaw, U.S. Forest Service Research Station, Calif., 4:15 p.m.,124 Hitchner Hall. x2815.

Peace Studies Peace Club Meeting, 5-6 p.m., Stodder Private Dining Room. x2609.

Protestant Worship, 6 p.m., Drummond Chapel, Union.

Circle K Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Sutton Lounge, Union.

"An American Friend," Foreign Language Department film (German), 6:30 p.m., 207 Little Hall. x2073

University of Maine Archaeological Society, 7 p.m., Ham Room, Union. x1900.

Women's Basketball with N. Hampshire, 7:30 p.m. Adm.

THURSDAY, Feb. 15

Al-Anon Meeting, 11 a.m., Ham/Old Town Rm., Union.

Single Parent Support Group, 11 a.m., Ham Room, Union. x1820.

Foreign Language Table, Spanish, noon, Yellow Dining Room, Hilltop. x2073.

"Working Class Poetry and Alienation: A Canadian-American in Maine," by Jacques Ferland, Socialist and Marxist Luncheon Series, 12:20 p.m., Sutton Lounge, Union. x3860.

"Everyone's All American," video, 1:30 p.m., Sutton Lounge, Union. x1731.

"Freud, Jung: Dreams," an Honors 202 lecture by Ann Martindale, 3:10 p.m., 100 Neville Hall. x3264.

Protestant Worship, 4 p.m., Drummond Chapel, Union.

"A Dry White Season," Peace and Justice Film Festival, 7 p.m., 101 Neville. x3860.

"Fletch Lives," video, 7 p.m., Commuter Lounge, Union. x1731.

FRIDAY, Feb. 16

Moslem Prayer, noon, Drummond Chapel, Union.

Overeaters Anonymous, noon, Old Town Room., Union.

"Drying Restraint in a Single Tier Dryer Section," by Gregory Wedel, Dept. of Engineering Development, Beloit Corp., 2:10 p.m., 100 Jenness Hall. x2277.

International Coffee Hour, 4:30 p.m., Bangor Lounges, Memorial Union. x1825.

"Mississippi Burning," video, 7 p.m., Commuter Lounge, Memorial Union. x1731.

"The Late Great Ladies of Blues and Jazz," 8 p.m., Maine Center for the Arts. Admission. x1755.

ONGOING EVENTS

"The Water Engine," a play by David Mamet, 8 p.m. Feb. 8-10; 2 p.m. Feb. 11, Pavilion Theatre. Admission. x3756.

Maine Perspective

A PUBLICATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

FEBRUARY 2, 1990

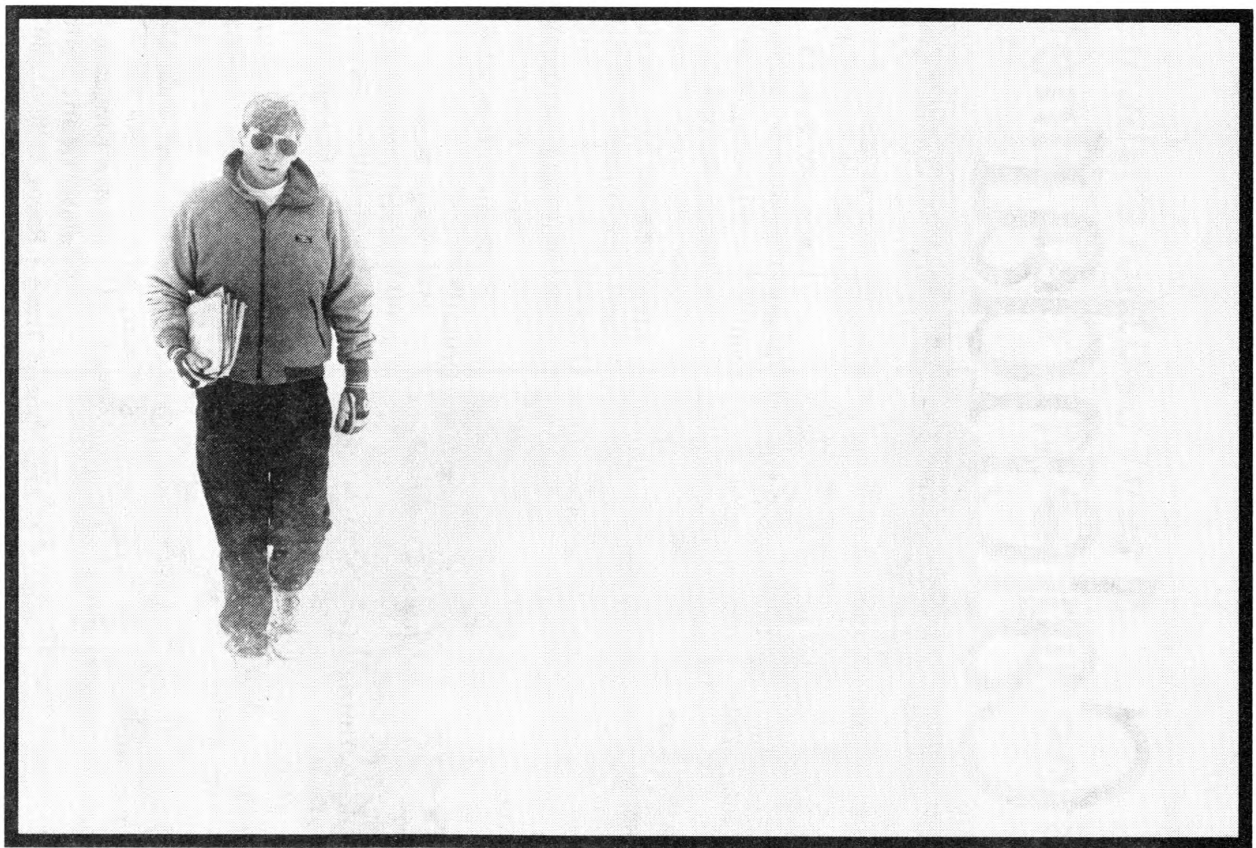


Photo by John Baer



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WHAT'S AHEAD

FEBRUARY 14



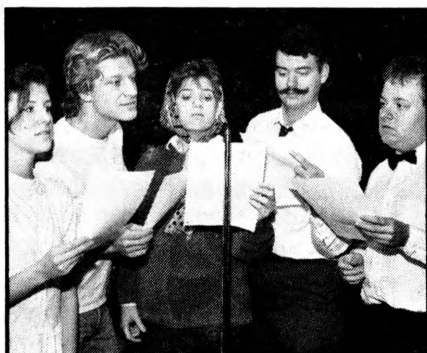
*Love Carefully
Day*

FEBRUARY 17-28



*Women's History
Observance*

FEBRUARY 8-11



*"The Water
Engine"*

FEBRUARY 6-MARCH 18



*"Stitches in
Time"*

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